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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Sixth session
New York, 3-5 August 2016
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the operation and achievements of the regional committees and thematic groups.

Summary of the report

The report provides information on the contribution and achievements of the following seven regional committees and thematic groups: the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies; and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network.

The reports of the regional committees and thematic groups contain information on their activities and achievements since the fifth session of the

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Committee of Experts, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, inclusive of the fourth High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 22 April 2016. The reports also provide an overview of the work of the regional committees, their working groups and thematic groups in the following areas: (a) sustainable development; (b) land administration and management; (c) disaster risk reduction; (d) fundamental geospatial data themes; (e) the integration of statistical and geospatial information; (f) regional and international collaboration and capacity development, including the Caribbean Project led by Mexico; (g) the global geodetic reference frame; (h) the creation of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network; (i) priority issues and challenges; and (j) future plans and events.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Sixth session
New York, 3-5 August 2016
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Global geodetic reference frame

Global geodetic reference frame

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on the global geodetic reference frame, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the development of a road map for the implementation and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame.

Summary of the report

At its fifth session, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 5/102, in which it commended the considerable efforts of the working group on the global geodetic reference frame and expressed its appreciation to Fiji for its leadership in the preparatory process and in the final formulation and successful tabling of the resolution on the global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development to the General Assembly with the support of 52 co-sponsoring countries. Acknowledging the importance of the resolution and of the road map as critical enablers for sustainable development, the Committee of Experts encouraged Member States and the working group to gather inputs on the key elements of the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame, including the need to address the imbalance in the distribution of geodetic infrastructure globally, in particular between the North and the South, and to commit to undertaking outreach programmes to ensure that experiences and best practices were communicated effectively, particularly in developing countries.

In its report, the working group presents progress on the road map, which includes issues related to infrastructure; policy, standards and conventions; education, training and capacity-building; communication and outreach; and governance.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made by the working group on global fundamental geospatial data themes.

Summary of the report

At its fifth session, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 5/103, in which it agreed that there was an urgent need for a set of global fundamental geospatial data themes that could be harmonized in order to enable the measurement, monitoring and management of sustainable development in a consistent way over time and to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and policymaking. The Committee of Experts supported the initiative proposed by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe to establish and lead a working group to liaise with the other four regional committees in order to bring together information on the consideration of fundamental geospatial data themes and to lead discussions between interested Member States and observers, with a view to developing an agreed minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes.

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In its report, the regional committee for Europe outlines the actions it has carried out to advance the work on the determination of fundamental geospatial data themes at the global level. It describes the formation of the working group, delineates its terms of reference and the work plan and outlines the proposed deliverables of the group. It also provides an overview of the global consultations the working group has engaged in during the past year, including by initiating contact with the five regional committees and by hosting two consultative workshops as side meetings at major global geospatial events to consult with interested Member States and observers, with a view to developing an agreed minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes.